

**TESTIMONY OF  
Joseph Campbell  
Senior Leader  
Western CT Health Network  
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BEFORE THE  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Friday, February 22, 2013**

**HB 6350, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING  
JUNE 30, 2015, AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE**

Good afternoon. My name is Joseph Campbell and I am a member of the Senior Leadership Team at Western CT Health Network comprised of Danbury and New Milford Hospitals. I am here today to testify in opposition to **HB 6350, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2015, AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVENUE.**

The budget proposed by Governor Malloy will cut us to the bone. Our ability to provide care that our patients need and deserve is in jeopardy. The proposed cuts will affect our patients, our community, and our hospital.

The hospitals of Western CT Health Network have been serving our region for more than 125 years. They were born out of community need and are mission driven organizations and vital to the safety net in our region. Recent events in our community have underscored the desperate need for appropriate safety net services and Western CT Health Network has been there for our patients night and day, whenever they need us.

I am here today out of concern for our patients and community. The cuts proposed by Governor Malloy will affect the patients we care so deeply about and we must be their strongest advocates, protecting the care they have a right to, and deserve.

Imagine the need for dental care when understanding dental issues are a main reason children miss school days. Imagine the need for cancer supports when you can barely get out of bed for your chemo treatments, because you are ravaged by the disease. Imagine the need for orthopedic surgery for an undocumented laborer who cannot work otherwise. Imagine the need for community screenings understanding that detecting heart and vascular disease can save someone only minutes from death.

In the Governor's efforts to balance his budget in December, he cut Western CT Health Network approximately \$5 million. To amplify the pain of those cuts, fiscal planning is nearly impossible with the ever changing numbers from the administration. As a result of these cuts, we are looking at how to reorganize our services and staffing and we know we have very difficult decisions to make to absorb this unexpected loss.

Now, the Governor is again turning to hospitals to make up the State's future deficit. This time, he is planning to cut an additional \$30 million from our organization over the next two years. Let's be clear in how we articulate this situation, this is not a windfall, nor a subsidy, but direct cuts to payments made to hospitals for providing comprehensive, high quality and accessible care to our patients.

As a result of these proposed cuts, we will have to close community-based programs and supportive services our patients have come to depend on. Patients we care about will be affected by limited access to needed services and less hands on care as staffing levels are reduced.

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Governor Malloy's proposed cuts are short-sighted and do not give consideration to the major changes in healthcare and huge federal cuts we are faced with. In a dynamic industry with our community in great need and an unpredictable fiscal landscape, we need to protect quality and patient safety. We are committed to our patients and our ongoing efforts to improve the care we provide in the most fiscally responsible manner possible. We need our dedicated staff to remain in place focused on providing our patients with hands on care that will help them heal and we need to retain programs to help them stay well.

Our patients are relying on you to make the right decision by opposing this proposed budget. Our communities need you to protect hospital funding. As you develop your budget, please protect patient care funding and Connecticut's hospitals.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.